

AMENDMENT

(Amendment based on Article 11)

To : Examiner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application

PCT/JP03/12556

2. Applicant

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3. Agent

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4. Item to be Amended Specification and Claims

5. Subject Matter of Amendment

(1) The expression "A masking member (11,21,31,41,51) made of a polymer alloy" on page 1, lines 30 to 31 should be amended as "A masking member (11,21,31,41,51), which is a molded article manufactured by vacuum and/or pressure forming a sheet made of a polymer alloy" .

(2) The expression "said masking member(11,21,31,41,51) is manufactured by vacuum and/or pressure forming" on page 2, lines 14 to 15 should be deleted.

(3) The expression "press molding blow molding, injection molding, or the like" on page 8 line 6 is deleted.

(4) The expression "A masking member made of a polymer alloy containing an engineering plastic, a polyamide and a compatibilizer, wherein said engineering plastic and said polyamide are mixed together with a weight ratio of between 20:80 and 80:20, with said compatibilizer being added in an amount of between 0.01 and 50 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the

sum of said engineering plastic and said polyamide" in claim 1 should be amended "A masking member, which is a molded article manufactured by vacuum and/or pressure forming a sheet made of a polymer alloy containing an engineering plastic, a polyamide and a compatibilizer, wherein said engineering plastic and said polyamide are mixed together with a weight ratio of between 20:80 and 80:20, with said compatibilizer being added in an amount of between 0.01 and 50 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the sum of said engineering plastic and said polyamide".

(5) Claim 7 is deleted.

(6) The expression "claims 1 to 7" in claim 8 should be amended "claims 1 to 6".

7. List of Attached Documents

- (1) Replacement sheets of pages 1, 2 and 8 of the specification.
- (2) Replacement sheet of page 15 of the claim.

REPLY

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application: PCT/JP03/12556

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4. Date of Notification: 22. 06. 2004

5. Content of Reply:

The gist of the present invention is as follows.

(Amended) A masking member, which is a molded article manufactured by vacuum and/or pressure forming a sheet made of a polymer alloy containing an engineering plastic, a polyamide and a compatibilizer, wherein said engineering plastic and said polyamide are mixed together with a weight ratio of between 20:80 and 80:20, with said compatibilizer being added in an amount of between 0.01 and 50 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the sum of said engineering plastic and said polyamide

Based on this gist, the present invention has the effect that since a uniform polymer alloy of an engineering plastic and a polyamide is prepared using a compatibilizer, its moldability, especially for vacuum and/or pressure forming is much improved, so that a heat resistant masking member, having a complex shape, can be manufactured with good accuracy.

In the vacuum and/or pressure forming process, a stretching force is exerted on said polymer alloy sheet, and particularly in the case of forming a molded article having a complex shape, a greater stretching force may be exerted on said polymer alloy sheet. In a case where the two kinds of polymer in said polymer alloy disperse unevenly, the stretchability of said sheet may vary partially, and in a case where a lot of stretching force is exerted on said sheet, it is feared that cracks, breaking or the like may occur in said parts having poor stretchability. In the present invention, the two kinds of polymer in said polymer alloy are mixed together uniformly with said compatibilizer.

Literature 1(JP2002-187961) discloses a masking member, made of a polymer alloy of an engineering plastic, a polyamide and/or polystyrene, and a styrene group elastomer, however, said Literature does not disclose that the compatibilizer used in the present invention is added to said polymer alloy, so that the above described effect of the present invention is not demonstrated in the invention of Literature 1.

Literature 2(JP56-26913) discloses a graft copolymer, which is prepared by the melting and mixing of polyphenylene oxide and polyamide with a compatibilizer. Nevertheless, Literature 2 does not disclose the vacuum and/or pressure forming of said graft copolymer so that the effect of the present invention, which is that a molded article, being complex in shape can be accurately molded by vacuum and/or pressure forming said graft copolymer sheet, is unforeseen in Literature 2.

Literature 3(JP61-296061) discloses a polymer mixture containing polyphenylene ether, a polyamide, and oxidized polyolefin wax, however, no vacuum and/or pressure forming of said polymer mixture sheet is disclosed in Literature3. Accordingly, the effect of the present invention, being that a molded article, having a complex shape, can be accurately molded by vacuum and/or pressure forming said polymer mixture sheet, is unforeseen in Literature3.

Literature 4(JP62-138553) discloses a compatibilized resin mixture of a polyamide and carboxylated phenylene ether, however, no vacuum and/or pressure forming of said resin mixture sheet is disclosed in Literature4. Accordingly, the effect of the present invention, being that a molded article, having complex shape, can be accurately molded by vacuum and/or pressure forming said resin mixture sheet, is unforeseen in Literature4.

As described above, the present invention has an inventive step, in that the

effect of the present invention is unforeseen from disclosures of Literatures 1 to 4.